1	2	3	4	5
			Meghalaya Arunachal Pradesh	Shillong (04.02.1998) Itanagar (12.08.2000)
8.	Gujarat	Sola (Ahmedabad)	Gujarat	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	-
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu and Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir	-
11	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Jharkhand	-
12	Karnataka	Bangalore	Karnataka	-
13.	Kerala	Kochi	Kerala and Lakshadweep Islands	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior(01-11-1956) lndore(01.11.1956)
15.	Madras	Chennai	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	Madurai (24.07.2004)
16	Orissa	Cuttack	Orissa	-
17	Patna	Patna	Bihar	-
18.	Punjab and Haryana	Chandigarh	Punjab, Haryana U.T. of Chandigarh	_
19	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur (31.01.1977)
20	Sikkim	Gangtok	Sikkim	-
21	Uttarakhand	Nainital	Uttarakhand	-

* There are 2! High Courts in the country.

* Only 6 High Courts (Allahabad, Bombay, Gauhati, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Rajasthan) have 14 permanent benches amongst themselves

Public Interest Litigations

999. SHRI MAHMOODA.MADANI:
SHRISANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered on the basis of Public Insterest Litigations (PILs) during the last three years;

(b) how many of them involved allegations against former Union Ministers and in how many of these cases litigations were found groundless or lacking substance and basis; and

(c) whether in view of the misuse and abuse of the mode of PILs, the Apex Court has issued guidelines and parameters concerning acceptability of PILs and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the Supreme Court and the High Courts and the same would be laid on the Table of the House.

Appointment of notaries

1000. SHRIK. CHANDRAN PILLAI: **Will** the Minister of **LAW AND** JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the amended Notaries Rules, Government fixed the number of notaries in Kerala at 563;

(b) whether the number is much below the number of notaries appointed in the States;

(c) whether the State Government has submitted a request for the enhancement of the number of notaries in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the State Government of Kerala was enhanced from 375 to 563 *vide* notification GSR 296(E) dated 19.05.06.

(b) Yes, Sir. According to the letter No. 19140/H2/07/Law dated 22.08.07 received from the Competent Authority and Joint Secretary to the State Government of Kerala, the State Government of Kerala has appointed 692 notaries against the maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the State Government of Kerala *i.e.* 563.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Government of Kerala has further requested for enhancement of the maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the State Government of Kerala to 1000. The maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the State Government of Kerala has been enhanced by 50% from 563 to 845 by amending the Schedule to the Notaries Rules, 1956 *vide* notification GSR 686(E) dated 31.10.07.

Disposal of pending criminal cases

tlOOl. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has proposed to Government that special arrangements should be made for immediate disposal of criminal cases pending for five years or more;

(b) if so, the outlines of this proposal, alongwith the total estimated number of such cases; and

(c) the action plan formulated by Government for implementation of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Supreme .Court of India in Transfer Case (Civil) No. 22/2001, Brij Mohan Lal *Vs.* Union of India & Others, that *inter alia,* deals with matters relating to Fast Track Courts which have been constituted for disposal of long pending sessions cases, has in its Order dated 20.11.2007 mentioned as follows:

> "Having heard Mr. Narasimha, learned amicus curiae and the learned Solicitor General of India, we are of the opinion that the charts, supplied by the former, may be considered

tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.